

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, said method comprising:

5 approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

10 approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, position data about one of said plurality of points and relative position data about remaining points with reference to said one of said plurality of points; and

15 describing the object region data using the functions.

20 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said object region data comprises information representing a range of frames in which the object exists in the video data and information identifying the figure approximating the object region.

25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said object region data comprises one of information representing related information linking to the object and information representing a method of accessing the related information.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said

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relative position data are components of differential vectors between the one of said plurality of points and remaining points.

5        5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said object region data comprises parameters of the functions.

6. A method of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, said method comprising:

10        approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

15        approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, position data about said plurality of points in a reference frame and relative position data about said plurality of points in a succeeding frame with reference to the position data about said plurality of points in the reference frame; and

20        describing the object region data using the functions.

25        7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said object region data comprises information representing a range of frames in which the object exists in the video data and information identifying the figure approximating the object region.

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8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said object region data comprises one of information representing related information linking to the object and information representing a method of accessing the related information.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein said relative position data are components of differential vectors between said plurality of points in the reference frame and said plurality of points in the succeeding frame.

10. The method according to claim 6, wherein said object region data comprises parameters of the functions.

11. A method of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, said method comprising:

approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

describing the object region data using the functions and depth information of the object.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said

object region data comprises information representing a range of frames in which the object exists in the video data and information identifying the figure approximating the object region.

5           13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said object region data comprises one of information representing related information linking to the object and information representing a method of accessing the related information.

10           14. The method according to claim 11, wherein said object region data is described by using the depth information of the object and parameters of the functions.

15           15. The method according to claim 11, wherein said depth information is a relative depth and has a discrete level value.

          16. A method of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, said method comprising:

20           approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

          extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

25           approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

describing the object region data using the functions and display flag information indicating a range of frames in which the object or each of said points is visible or not.

5           17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said object region data comprises information representing a range of frames in which the object exists in the video data and information identifying the figure approximating the object region.

10           18. The method according to claim 16, wherein said object region data comprises one of information representing related information linking to the object and information representing a method of accessing the related information.

15           19. The method according to claim 16, wherein said object region data is described by using the display flag information and parameters of the functions.

20           20. A method of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, said method comprising:

            approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

            extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

25           approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said

plurality of points; and

describing the object region data using the  
functions and object passing range information  
indicating a range where the figure approximating the  
5 object exist over said plurality of frames.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein said  
object region data comprises information representing  
a range of frames in which the object exists in the  
video data and information identifying the figure  
10 approximating the object region.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein said  
object region data comprises one of information  
representing related information linking to the object  
and information representing a method of accessing the  
15 related information.

23. The method according to claim 20, wherein said  
object region data is described by using the object  
passing range information and parameters of the  
functions.

20 24. A method of describing object region data  
about an object moving in a panorama image formed by  
combining a plurality of frames with being overlapped,  
said method comprising:

approximating the object in the panorama image  
25 using a figure;

extracting a plurality of points representing the  
figure in a coordinate system of the panorama image;

approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

5       describing the object region data using the functions.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein said object region data comprises information representing a range of frames in which the object exists in the video data and information identifying the figure  
10       approximating the object region.

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein said object region data comprises one of information representing related information linking to the object and information representing a method of accessing the  
15       related information.

27. The method according to claim 24, wherein said object region data comprises parameters of the functions.

20       28. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein and for An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein  
25       and for describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, the computer readable program code means comprising:





computer readable program code means for approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, position data about said plurality  
5 of points in a reference frame and relative position data about said plurality of points in a succeeding frame with reference to the position data about said plurality of points in the reference frame; and

computer readable program code means for  
10 describing the object region data using the functions.

30. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein and for describing object region data about an object in video data over  
15 a plurality of frames, the computer readable program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

20 computer readable program code means for extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

computer readable program code means for approximating trajectories with functions, the  
25 trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

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program code means embodied therein and for describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, the computer readable program code means comprising:

5 computer readable program code means for approximating the object using a figure for each of said frames;

computer readable program code means for extracting a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

10 computer readable program code means for approximating trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

15 computer readable program code means for describing the object region data using the functions and object passing range information indicating a range where the figure approximating the object exist over said plurality of frames.

20 33. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein and for describing object region data about an object moving in a panorama image formed by combining a plurality of frames with being overlapped, the computer readable program code means comprising:

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computer readable program code means for  
5 extracting a plurality of points representing the  
figure in a coordinate system of the panorama image;

computer readable program code means for describing the object region data using the functions.

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        program code portion for causing a computer to
20    approximate the object using a figure for each of said
        frames;

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25           program code portion for causing a computer to  
approximate trajectories with functions, the  
trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames

advancing direction, position data about one of said plurality of points and relative position data about remaining points with reference to said one of said plurality of points; and

5           program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions.

35. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data signal capable of describing object region data about an object in video data over  
10           a plurality of frames, the computer data signal comprising:

          program code portion for causing a computer to approximate the object using a figure for each of said frames;

15           program code portion for causing a computer to extract a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

          program code portion for causing a computer to approximate trajectories with functions, the  
20           trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, position data about said plurality of points in a reference frame and relative position data about said plurality of points in a succeeding frame with reference to the position data about said  
25           plurality of points in the reference frame; and

          program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions.

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36. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data signal capable of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, the computer data signal  
5 comprising:

program code portion for causing a computer to approximate the object using a figure for each of said frames;

program code portion for causing a computer to  
10 extract a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

program code portion for causing a computer to approximate trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames  
15 advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions and depth information of the object.

20 37. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data signal capable of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, the computer data signal comprising:

25 program code portion for causing a computer to approximate the object using a figure for each of said frames;

program code portion for causing a computer to extract a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

5       program code portion for causing a computer to approximate trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

10       program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions and display flag information indicating a range of frames in which the object or each of said points is visible or not.

15       38. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data signal capable of describing object region data about an object in video data over a plurality of frames, the computer data signal comprising:

20       program code portion for causing a computer to approximate the object using a figure for each of said frames;

      program code portion for causing a computer to extract a plurality of points representing the figure for each of said frames;

25       program code portion for causing a computer to approximate trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames

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advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

5        program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions and object passing range information indicating a range where the figure approximating the object exist over said plurality of frames.

10        39. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data signal capable of describing object region data about an object moving in a panorama image formed by combining a plurality of frames with being overlapped, the computer data signal comprising:

15        program code portion for causing a computer to approximate the object in the panorama image using a figure;

      program code portion for causing a computer to extract a plurality of points representing the figure in a coordinate system of the panorama image;

20        program code portion for causing a computer to approximate trajectories with functions, the trajectories being obtained by arranging, in the frames advancing direction, data indicating positions of said plurality of points; and

25        program code portion for causing a computer to describe the object region data using the functions.